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14 August 1975

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Executive Council Meeting on 12 August 1975

Mr. Proctor chaired. Substituting were Messrs. [REDACTED]

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1. Mr. Colby attended the first half of the meeting to give a rundown on the state of the investigations. He commented that the Rockefeller report had come out about right, from the Agency's perspective, and his only major disagreement is with its recommendation concerning the surfacing of the Agency's budget. He said that the members and staff of the Senate Select Committee were on the whole very effective, but he regretted the delays caused by the Committee's preoccupation with the assassination issue. The House Select Committee seems to be moving now after its initial difficulties. He thinks that its initial focus on the budget process is a sensible way to proceed.

2. Mr. Colby described the investigation process as essentially one of establishing guidelines. He believes that the questions the investigators are addressing are, by and large, legitimate ones and he is trying to emphasize to them that they can deal with the issues without compromising the names of individuals and entities.

3. Mr. Proctor asked whether anyone had detected a drying up of information from sources [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Several other office directors said they had seen no sign that either the volume or quality of information they were receiving has decreased so far. The future may be another matter.

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4. Mr. Colby asked about the morale of DDI personnel. The consensus was that our people are continuing to do their jobs as well as ever, but that there is an undercurrent of uneasiness. In response to Mr. Colby's question as to how employees are bearing up under the workload, there was general agreement that the pressures

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are heavier than is healthy and that we have little reserve capacity to handle major crises. Our better people are being asked routinely to put forward a level of effort that a decade ago was required only in times of crisis. Mr. Proctor noted that the demands of new customers, such as those in Congress, are beginning to take a toll.

5. Mr. Proctor asked whether there was a feeling that Mr. Colby had been too forthcoming with the investigators. There was general agreement that a forthcoming approach was the only way out of our difficulties and that, if anything, even more candor would have been desirable.

6. Following Mr. Colby's departure, Mr. Proctor reported some remarks by Agency counselor [redacted] thinks the Director has handled his appearances very well and seems satisfied with recent developments in the hearings. He feels it is important that employees being interviewed do not unnecessarily invoke the Fifth Amendment. The Agency has a list of attorneys who will advise employees without fee if they are called as witnesses.

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